



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

31 AUGUST 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Man Arrested for Breaching LAX Perimeter Fence

(U) Airport police are investigating a security breach that occurred at LAX early Sunday morning. The incident occurred about 4:45 a.m. after a man breached an outer perimeter fence line, according to a statement from Los Angeles Airport Police. The suspect, identified by police as 31-year-old Matthew Maine, used some type of instrument to pry open the bottom of the fence and slip underneath, according to the statement. Maine then allegedly tried to board an American Airlines aircraft that was being serviced. He was stopped and detained by a cleaning crew who immediately notified airport police, the statement read.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [KTLA 5](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Man Facing Charges Following LA Fireworks Explosion

(U) The man who stockpiled illegal fireworks in his South Los Angeles backyard — which were later improperly detonated by police, likely causing a massive blast in late June that rocked a neighborhood and injured 17 people — now faces a decade in federal prison. The illegal fireworks were found at the home of Arturo Ceja III, who pleaded guilty yesterday to one count of transportation of explosives without a license. Ceja admitted to making several trips to Nevada in late June to buy fireworks — including homemade ones that were made out of cardboard and packed with explosive flash powder, federal prosecutors said.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) San Diego – No Death Penalty for Poway Synagogue Shooter

(U) The man charged in the hate crime attack at a Poway synagogue that killed one woman and injured three others will not face the death penalty in federal court, prosecutors said yesterday. In a terse one-sentence court filing, prosecutors with the Department of Justice said they will not seek the execution of John T. Earnest, 22, in connection with federal charges filed in the wake of the 27 April 2019, attack on the Chabad of Poway synagogue. The court filing means Earnest will not face the death penalty in either federal or state court. He pleaded guilty to state charges of murder and attempted murder in a plea bargain where San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan agreed not to seek state execution.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [The San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Hate Crimes Hit 12-Year High in US

(U) Washington – The number of hate crimes in the United States rose last year to the highest level in more than a decade, driven by a rise in assaults targeting Black victims and victims of Asian descent, the FBI reported yesterday. The 2020 data, submitted to the FBI by more than 15,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, identified 7,759 hate-crimes in 2020, a 6% increase over 2019 and the highest tally since 2008. The FBI data showed the number of offenses targeting Blacks rose to 2,755 from 1,930 and incidents against Asians jumped to 274 from 158. Of the 7,426 hate crime offenses classified as crimes against people, as opposed to crimes against property, 53.4% were for intimidation,

27.6% were for simple assault and 18.1% were for aggravated assault. Twenty-two murders and 19 rapes were reported as hate crimes.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – Texas Shooter Possibly Inspired by Foreign Terrorists

(U) Garland – Investigators are looking into whether a Texas man was inspired by foreign terrorists when he killed a Lyft driver in a Dallas suburb and later opened fire in the police station of another suburb where officers fatally shot him. Police said Imran Ali Rasheed ordered a Lyft in his home city of Garland Sunday then fatally shot the driver, Isabella Lewis. Her stolen car was found a short time later outside the police station in the neighboring community of Plano, where Rasheed began shooting in the lobby before being shot by officers, police chiefs in both cities said at a news conference. Matthew DeSarno, special agent in charge of the FBI's Dallas office, said investigators believe Rasheed acted alone but that Rasheed left a letter indicating he "may have been inspired by a foreign terrorist organization." DeSarno said Rasheed was the subject of a counterterrorism investigation from 2010 to 2013, when the case was closed after agents determined Rasheed did not currently pose a threat. The agency's regional terrorism task force is working on the investigation of Lewis' killing, he said.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Colombia – 13 Injured in Bombing at Police Station

(U) Cucuta – At least 13 people were injured following an explosion at a police station near Colombia's border with Venezuela, officials in the city of Cucuta said yesterday. Police said the explosion was caused by an "improvised explosive device" that was left at the station, which is located in one of Cucuta's lower income neighborhoods. So far authorities have refrained from blaming any of the armed groups that operate in the area. In June, a car bomb at a military base in Cucuta injured 44 people, including several US soldiers who were there to train Colombian military personnel. Ten days later, President Ivan Duque's helicopter was shot at as it approached the city's airport.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Germany – Seven Afghan Refugees Arrive to Germany with Forged Documents

(U) Berlin – Seven Afghans were taken into custody in Germany after authorities discovered forged documents, according to Interior Minister Horst Seehofer. One is in custody, two are still in the custody of the police at the airport. "Three had forged documents with them and four had already been deported from Germany to Afghanistan as criminals. These were serious crimes," Seehofer said.

SOURCE: 30 August 2021, [Deutsche Welle](#)

(U) Saudi Arabia – Airport Attacked by Explosive Laden Drone

(U) Abha – A bomb-laden drone today targeted an airport in southwestern Saudi Arabia, wounding eight people and damaging a civilian plane, Saudi state television reported. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, the second such strike on Abha airport in the last 24 hours. The earlier attack, blamed on Yemen's Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels, scattered shrapnel across the tarmac but caused no casualties. The attack comes just days after missiles and drones smashed into a key military base in Yemen's south, killing at least 30 Saudi-backed Yemeni troops and marking one of the deadliest attacks in the country's years long civil war.

SOURCE: 31 August 2021, [Associated Press](#)

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